

Appl. No. 09/700,561
Atty. Docket No. AA315X/KL
Amtd. dated August 26, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 3, 2003
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 33, with the following amended paragraph:

The entire unstrained length entirely of the waist elastic member 80 is preferably prestrained in the lateral direction before operatively joined to the extended portions 72 of the left and right inner barrier cuffs 54, the end extended portion 24A of the topsheet 24, and the end extended portion 23A of the nonwoven outer cover 23. The entire unstrained length entirely of the waist elastic member 80 is prestrained in the lateral direction up to at least the original length of the waistband panel 6 and 7 of the chassis 41. The entire unstrained length entirely of the waist elastic member 80 may be further prestrained to extend into a part of the seam panel 12 and 13. In the embodiment, the waistband panel 6 and 7 of the chassis 41 comprises the extended portions 72 of the left and right inner barrier cuffs 54, the end extended portion 24A of the topsheet 24, and the end extended portion 23A of the nonwoven outer cover 23. Herein "original length" refers to the length of a single material or a composite material before being rendered elastically extensible and before being permanently mechanically stretched. Herein "prestrained entire length" of a prestrained elastic refers to the entire length entirely of the elastic material under a condition where a part of or the entire length entirely of the elastic material is prestrained in the lateral direction. In the embodiment, the original length of the waistband panel 6 and 7 is generally the same as the combined length of the extended portions 72 of the left and right inner barrier cuffs 54 and the end extended portion 24A of the topsheet 24 under an assembled configuration before the waist elastic member 80 is joined thereto. The original length of the waistband panel 6 and 7 is also generally the same as the length of the end extended portion 23A of the nonwoven outer cover 23 before the waist elastic member 80 is joined thereto. The waist elastic member 80 is preferably prestrained in range of from 20 to 100 % of its unstrained (i.e. untensioned) length. More preferably, the waist elastic member 80 may be prestrained in range of from 40 to 80 %. After the prestrained waist elastic member 80 is joined, the waist elastic member 80 is then allowed to return to their substantially untensioned condition with the other components, such as the extended portions 72 of the inner barrier cuffs 54, the end extended portion 24A of the topsheet 24, and the end extended portion 23A of the nonwoven outer cover 23, joined to the waist elastic member 80. Thus the continuous extensible waistband 57 and 59 is formed that is extensible, from the untensioned length of the waist elastic member 80 at least to the original length of the waistband panel 6 and 7 of the chassis 41.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 27, with the following amended paragraph:

Alternatively, only a part of the waist elastic member 80 may be prestrained before operatively joined to the extended portion of at least one of the plurality of layers, such that the prestrained entire length of the prestrained waist elastic member 80 in a condition where a part of the waist elastic member 80 is prestrained is generally the same as the original length of the waistband panel 6 and 7 of the chassis 41. Preferably, only a part of the waist elastic material 80, which extends along the lateral width X (shown in Fig. 3) of the absorbent core 25 adjacent to the waist elastic material 80, may be prestrained.